

1880, after disposing of the regular order of business, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, we have vainly sought for the last six or seven years, that recognition by Congress, of our services in the Mexican war that has been awarded soldiers of other wars in which the Government has been engaged; and whereas the intrinsic value of the vast territory acquired, and the mineral resources and other material advantages thus secured to the Government by our sufferings and sacrifices in that war are, we think, at least equal in value to the acquisitions made by its soldiers in other wars, who have and are receiving pensions from the date of their discharge; and whereas after the most earnest and persistent efforts of our National Association, through its agencies in all parts of the country, to ascertain the number of survivors, the existence and whereabouts of only about 5,000 could be found, which number (being nearly all old men,) is rapidly diminishing every year; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the time has come for action; that what is done for us must be done quickly; and we respectfully ask of Congress to pass a bill at once placing us on an equal footing with the most favored.

*Resolved*, That henceforth, we will know our friends in and act of Congress, and that we will not support any man for office, who will not pledge himself to work and vote for such a bill.

*Resolved*, That our secretary is hereby directed to forward copies of this preamble and resolutions to the THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, (Washington,) and *Vedette*, for publication.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, Secretary.

At a citizens meeting held in in Covelo, March 6, 1880, Judge Joel Everland, presiding, after an able address from the text "Facts and figures concerning the United States war with Mexico, and its results," by E. B. Bateman, president of the Mendocino County Association of Mexican Veterans, the foregoing was read by Whitcomb Henley, Esq., and on motion unanimously adopted. It was also resolved that each man back his endorsement by signing his name, which was done accordingly.

[Here follows a long list of the names of veterans residing at Covelo, California.]

#### The Soldiers' Friends.

Those individuals, attorneys, so much abused by Bentley continue their good work for soldiers, as notice below:

EUREKA, ILL., April 16, 1880.

GEO. E. LEMON, Esq.,

DEAR SIR: I received the papers granting me a pension of \$4 per month from date of discharge, and since then have received a check for \$682.60. I thank you for your persistent and successful efforts toward getting my claim through.

Yours truly, WM. J. LENFELLOW.

CADOTT FALLS, CHIPPEWA CO., WIS.,  
May 1, 1880.

GEO. E. LEMON, Esq.,

DEAR SIR: Through your hard work and faithfulness I have received from the Pension Office \$1,184.20. I thank you sincerely, and will recommend you in our county paper and to all soldiers who require a friend to do business for them.

Yours, very gratefully, J. W. HUNT.

IONIA, IONIA COUNTY, MICH.,  
April 25, 1880

MR. GEO. E. LEMON,

DEAR SIR: I received from the Pension Office, through your labors, \$535.33. I thank you sincerely for it.

Yours truly, SAMUEL OSBORN.

MC CONNELLSVILLE, OHIO, April 21, 1880.

MR. GEO. E. LEMON,

SIR: Many thanks to you for attending to the collection of my mother's claim. A check for \$190.67 came to hand all right.

Yours, J. H. WHITAKER.

OXFORDVILLE, ROCK CO., WIS.,  
May 3, 1880.

MR. GEO. E. LEMON:

I have the honor of writing you a few words to thank you for my pension claim which you have secured for me. You have stood by me nobly during a siege of five years or near that time. My pension amounted to \$825.47.

Yours, very gratefully, GEO. W. VAN ORMAN.

ORONOCO, MINN., May 3, 1880.

MR. LEMON,

DEAR SIR: I received my pension two months ago of \$8 a month, amounting to \$1,380.07. You have my many, many thanks. I hope you will get many more for the poor soldiers.

Yours truly, MARY A. BUSCOMBE.

MEDINA, N. Y., May 2, 1880.

MR. LEMON,

DEAR SIR: I received a pension check for \$352 allowed me. I am thankful for the able manner in which you have conducted my case.

Very truly, LOUIS WOOD.

BLOOMINGDALE, IND., May 5, 1880.

CAPT. GEO. E. LEMON,

DEAR SIR: I return you my heart felt thanks for your work in getting me a pension. I received \$1,660.40.

Yours gratefully, JOHN TRIMBLE.

PROSPECT, N. Y., May 10, 1880.

MR. LEMON:

I have, through your constant efforts, at last received my pension of over \$400. I thank you sincerely.

Yours truly, WM. W. JONES.

ROYERSFORD, PA., May 15, 1880.

G. E. LEMON, Esq.,

DEAR SIR: I received my money, \$677, from the Pension Office yesterday. It was a God-send to me, and I can't thank you enough for getting it.

Yours respectfully, H. WEINERT.

LACUYNE, KAS., May 11, 1880.

MR. LEMON,

DEAR SIR: I have just received a check from the Pension Office for \$341. I am a thousand times obliged to you for your efforts in securing it.

Yours truly, COLUMBUS STORM.

AUGUSTA, KAS., May 16, 1880.

MR. GEO. E. LEMON,

DEAR SIR: My sincere thanks for your getting me my long delayed pension, which gives me some \$4,264.87.

Yours truly, WILLIAM SCHLOSSER.

#### Press Comments on The Tribune and "King John."

Among the hundreds of these recently received, we publish the following:

Notwithstanding the fact that our National Capital in 1865 was wreathed with mottoes to our soldiers, and the declaration that the debt of gratitude which the country owed to its soldiers and sailors was the only debt which the government would never be able to pay; yet the Commissioner of Pensions is unwilling to take the solemn oaths of our disabled heroes, and accuses them of trying to swindle the government. His unworthy action keeps hundreds out of their pension for years, and his removal appears highly necessary for the interest of those seeking pensions.—*News*, Grand Meadows, Minn.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is a live Washington (D. C.) paper published in the interest of the soldiers of the late war. Just now it is waging a vigorous war upon Commissioner Bentley, whose pension ratings and "sixty surgeon bill" have created a strong feeling of distrust and antagonism among the pensioners of the country and their friends. The TRIBUNE is bending every nerve to defeat the commissioner's efforts to perpetuate his own reign and furnish his friends with fat offices at the expense of those whose services to their country make them dependent on its bounty, and it should receive hearty support. The low price of fifty cents per year removes all excuse for any person withholding his co-operation in the good work it is engaged in.—*Business Advertiser*, Phila., Pa.

We have received a copy of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., devoted to the interests of soldiers and sailors. It is a large eight page monthly, published at the low rate of 50c. a copy per year, and should be taken by every soldier who was in the Union army. Its argument against the new Sixty Surgeon bill of Bentley's ought to reach every home in the land.—*Times*, Bristol, Pa.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is the name of a monthly paper published at Washington, D. C., It is devoted to the interests of soldiers of the late war, and is a fearless advocate of soldiers' rights and contemner of their would-be oppressors. Every veteran should have it. Published at 50 cents per year by the National Tribune Co., Washington, D. C.—*Herald*, Elizabeth, Pa.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, a monthly journal published at Washington, D. C., devoted to the interests of soldiers and all pensioners, is upon our table, and it handles Commissioner of Pensions John A. Bentley without gloves. This journal should be in the hands of every soldier and pensioner in the United States. Price of subscription 50 cents per annum.—*Farmers Advocate*, Stansbury, Pa.

We have just received a copy of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., by the National Tribune Co., at 50 cents per year. Sample copies free. Every soldier, who has his own interest at heart, should have a copy. It is an 8 paged paper, has no advertisements, and is gotten up in good shape.—*Independent*, Chandlerville, Ill.

No. 4 of vol. 4 of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., is before us. It is devoted to the interests of soldiers and pensioners, and all pensioners of the United States—Price 50 cents per annum. Sample copies sent free on application. This paper favors the appointment of home physicians as examiners of pensions, which is right.—*Scalpel*, Pocahontas, Ark.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, a monthly periodical published in Washington, D. C., has been received at this office. It is in the interests of soldiers of the late war, and is a well edited, nicely printed sheet, and undoubtedly of great interest to those for whom it is intended. Pension matters are treated at length, the abuses clearly shown and also the remedies. At the subscription price, 50 cents per year, it certainly seems that every ex-soldier should be in receipt of it.—*Auburnian*, Auburn, N. Y.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., by the National Tribune Co., bearing date of April, 1880, is now at hand. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is a neat paper, folded in an eight-page form, has 24 columns filled with the choicest reading of its kind. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is published once a month at the low rate of 50 cents per year. It is devoted to the interests of the soldiers and sailors of the late war and all pensioners of the United States. We recommend it to our readers. Specimen copies sent free on request.—*Plainsdealer*, Ashland City, Tenn.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, a paper devoted to the interests of the soldier and sailor, has been placed upon our exchange table. Its present issue is devoted mainly to a discussion of the Pension question, which is agitating the public mind at present to a great degree. It deals in rather unqualified terms with J. A. Bentley, the present Pension Commissioner, who it is claimed retards our country's defenders from receiving their just dues. It gives a table of one hundred consecutive cases, showing the rating of the examining surgeons and boards, and his illegal reductions. Surely Congress should look into some of these allegations, for the army and navy of the United States should not suffer from injustice or illegal authority in the hands of one man. THE TRIBUNE is nicely printed, spicily edited, and the subscription placed at the nominal sum of 50 cents per annum. We hope to see it often.—*The Occident*, Chicago, Ill.

Away down here at the furthest extremity of the United States and on the brink of the Gulf Stream stands a little VIDETTE, on guard, and it joins hands with the Washington NATIONAL TRIBUNE in demanding justice for the old soldiers. That paper presents the phiz of what it terms "The arch enemy of the soldier," J. A. Bentley, Pension Commissioner, the man who "cannot bring himself to believe the testimony of the soldiers."—*Vidette*, Key West, Flor.

#### Correspondents' Column.

A. A. A. GRANTSVILLE, MO.—Under the provisions of the Equalization Bounty Bill you would not be entitled, as you have already received bounty in excess of eight and one-third dollars a month for each month of service.

S. P. G., PORTLAND, MICH.—Claims for the additional bounty provided by the act of July 28, 1866, can be filed any time prior to July 1, 1880, after which date they are barred by statute of limitation.

N. F., KNOXVILLE, MO.—Unless the disability on account of which you were discharged was a wound (not a disease) you have no title to bounty, because you did not serve two years. DANIEL A. F., COVINGTON, CONN.—Mrs. F. A. R. has no title to a pension on account of the death of her son, because she is already drawing a pension as widow of a soldier. Her children the brothers and sisters of the deceased soldier have no title to pension, because the soldier left a mother, who now survives.

T. V. T., CALEDONIA, MO.—We cannot inform you when you may expect an adjustment of your pension claim. The Pension Office is very much behind with its work, but an additional clerical force recently put to work will expedite the adjustment of claims. We learn from your attorney that the Pension Office alone is to blame for the delay, of which fact you are doubtless already aware and well assured.

W. A. C., KNOXVILLE, TENN.—Soldiers are entitled to twenty-five cents a day for the period while en route to the furloughs of war and a like allowance for the period properly absent on furlough provided they put their furloughs in evidence. Having already received the twenty-five cents a day for the period held as a prisoner of war, you of course are not entitled to any further commutation of rations.

B. M. J., RICHFIELD, OHIO.—An affidavit from a commissioned officer or two enlisted men having personal knowledge of the time, place, and circumstances of receiving the wound will be all that is necessary, provided there is a record of the wound at the War Department; but if there is no record of the wound the Pension Office may require the testimony of a physician showing its existence at the date of discharge.

J. G. B., ARMY, BUCKEYE, OHIO.—Q. Are the heirs of soldiers who were killed by the enemy while en route to the furloughs of war entitled to pension?—A. Unless the furloughs were granted on account of sickness or by reason of re-enlistment as veterans, these soldiers would not be regarded as "in the line of duty," as required by the pension laws, and pension would be denied by the Pension Office, although such cases would most probably be allowed by special act of Congress.

A. E. K., COLOMA, MICH.—Q. When does the time for filing claims for the additional bounty provided by the act of July 28, 1866, expire?—A. July 1, 1880. Q. Are the children of a deceased soldier entitled to the additional bounty of \$100 provided by the act of July 28, 1866?—A. They are entitled to said bounty, provided the soldier would have been entitled to the same had he lived, and provided they were under twenty-one years of age at the date of the approval of the act, and the widow of the soldier has not received and is not entitled to receive the same by reason of death or remarriage. And provided also that the soldier himself would have been entitled to said bounty had he served out his enlistment.

MRS. F. S., BAYLESS, TENN.—I had a son who was a minor when he enlisted, and who married several years after his muster-out. After his death his widow drew a pension until her remarriage, and now her children by the soldier are in receipt of a pension? Q. Am not I, his mother, entitled to his pension until he married, as he never drew any, and I was dependent upon him for support when he enlisted and after his return?—A. No; the parent of a soldier who dies leaving a widow or minor child surviving him has no title to pension under any law or circumstances.

J. H. H., BRANCK, OHIO.—If you have received \$200 bounty for your service no more is due; but you will receive about \$100 more if the Equalization Bounty Bill becomes a law.

J. F. MCG., BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO.—1. Q. In case I should die from accident or from disease other than that for which I draw a pension, will my wife continue to draw my pension so long as she remains unmarried?—A. No. 2. Q. In case she would continue to draw my pension, would she be entitled to draw for our legally adopted child (having none of our own) until she is sixteen years of age?—A. No.

JAMES B. R., JUNCTION, OHIO.—For an answer to your inquiries you are referred to the article in this paper entitled "Who Are and Who Are Not Entitled to Bounty?" also to the Equalization Bounty Bill, as printed in our February number.

W. A. P., BENTON, KY.—Q. If I should fail to file my application for a pension in the Pension Office before July 1, 1880, from what date would I draw pension?—A. From date of filing your claim only. You are advised to file your application at once, as Congress may at any moment lessen the period within which you may avail yourself of the benefits of the arrears of pension law. Pension claimants who delay filing their applications stand in their own light and on perilous ground.

"ATTORNEY-AT-LAW," ALMA, KAN.—No Department of the Government would entertain a claim for compensation for arms and other private property taken from an officer by the enemy. No law granting additional bounty has been enacted since July 28, 1866.

J. T. W., ADAMSVILLE, TENN.—1. If a petition has been presented in the present Congress another is not necessary. 2. Ration money was and is paid by commissaries of subsistence on properly-granted furloughs and to ex-prisoners of war. 3. We cannot inform you what reasons influenced the Honorable Senator to whom you refer to oppose the "Weaver bill," if indeed, he did oppose it. 4. Petitions addressed to the President of the United States might effect the object referred to. 5. If I should entirely lose my sight while my case is pending (I have applied for a pension on partial blindness) what course should I pursue? Answer, If you become totally blind before you are examined by the pension office examining surgeon you have nothing to do; but, if you should become blind after the examination, you are advised to request a new examination, or immediately after the allowance of your claim apply for an increase. 6. The pension allowed for total blindness is \$72 a month.

W. R. B., PITTSBURGH, PA.—The information you request cannot be obtained at present without a vast deal of trouble and research, but, after the adjournment of the present session, a list of pensions granted by special acts will be published in this paper. A number of these bills have passed one or the other branch of Congress, but not both, and hence have not yet become laws.

MRS. R. F., OSAGE MISSION, KANSAS.—The firm of attorneys referred to are in practice before the Government Departments, and the delay in your case is presumably the fault of the Pension Office, not your attorneys.

MARTIN R., LANCASTER, PA.—Your father's claim for pension, filed in December, 1879, will most likely not be reached for action for several months yet, and, if the present administration of the Pension Office should remain unchanged, we dare not venture the prognostication that the claim will be disposed of one year hence. That office, under its present inefficient head, is making but little progress in the adjudication of claims. We hope, however, for a speedy change in the head of the Pension Office, which would soon bring comparative relief to applicants for pension.

ROBT. B., CHICAGO, ILL.—A soldier who, after serving nine months, received an honorable discharge and then re-enlisted for three years in another organization (enlistments into the Veteran Reserve Corps excepted) as a volunteer, between January 1, 1863, and April 1, 1864, is, if not mustered as a veteran volunteer, entitled to an "office-muster" as such. Such muster will entitle the soldier to the difference between veteran and recruit bounty, \$102 or \$202, according to date of enlistment.

J. E. A., MILLVILLE, N. J.—The law does not provide a pension for the parents of a deceased soldier in cases where the latter left a widow or minor child surviving him. The widow's pension stopped under the provisions of law when she remarried, and her child's when the latter became sixteen years of age.

C. F. M., PEACATONICA, ILL.—We cannot give you the desired information, and, if we could, it would in no way assist you in arriving at a solution of your difficulty. Your claim, together with many others, is in the hopper of a mill that grinds exceedingly slow. Unless there is a change for the better in the administration of the Pension Office soon, your patience will be subjected to a severe strain ere you succeed.

"THREE-YEAR SOLDIER," CHESTER, PA.—Regulars were, and still are, required to contribute a stated amount per month to the support of the Soldiers' Home at Washington, D. C. The Supreme Court has decided that as they (Regulars) supported said Home while they were in the service, they are not obliged to give up their pensions when they enter it, but are entitled to draw and retain the same. The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States does not affect the status of ex-soldiers who are or may become inmates of Volunteer Homes.

WM. H. H., ROCKBRIDGE, OHIO.—A minister of the Gospel lost his eyesight from an injury incurred in the army. His profession at time of enlistment, was a minister, and has been the same since his discharge. He does more work in his profession now than before his eyesight became impaired. Q. How should the degree of his disability be stated in a declaration for pension? A. If he is entirely blind state the degree of his disability as "total;" or if not entirely blind insert "nearly" or "partially." It really does not matter what degree is alleged in a declaration, as the same is determined by the medical examining surgeon of the Pension Office. The degree of disability has reference to manual labor, not preaching. If the claimant is totally blind he will be rated at \$72 a month.